

Alternative Transportation Ad Hoc Committee
Minutes of Meeting – 09/17/19 – 6.15pm
Underhill Town Offices

Present: Kurt Johnson (chair), Sara Lourie (secretary) (arrived late, Kurt took minutes at start), Donna Johnson, Sue Cromwell, Jennifer Smithers, Monica Donlevy.

Open Meeting / Adjustments

Jeffersonville Bus Stop

- Stop that had been at the Joinery has moved to Main St with parking behind Union Bank.
- Village trustees said 'go ahead' with moving stop to behind UB.
- Monica advised to check with GMT to see if bus uses rotary in both directions. ***Kurt/Mike** to ask about this when they speak with GMT about mid-day service
- Infrastructure subcommittee to meet with Cambridge Village Trustees on 6 October, 6pm.

GMT - Local pass sales

- Both Cambridge Village Offices and Varnum Library had said they had sold a pass, but then counted remaining passes and still had 5 each! Net: zero sales at all points to date
- Sara suggested we revisit all sites regularly, keep it on their radar
- ***Monica** will post on FPF again
- Mike talked to Jamie - GMT seems ok about getting money for passes when sold
- Monica has seen people using the App for pass sales, but thinks that an older population would be more interested in purchasing physical tickets e.g. when midday service is available

Midday Service

- we revisited our Mission Statement and discussed what kind of service might be possible
- Mike handed out detailed sheet of points to discuss/initial ideas
- Discussed:
 - WHO – need to figure out our potential market; lots of other organizations providing e.g. elderly, disabled transportation; we want to be reinforcing other efforts, not stepping on toes; too wide an area for DRT/micro to be efficient
 - WHAT – two main possibilities:
 1. copy current schedule (but maybe don't go to Pine St, and maybe end route at DTC, Lang Farm, Amtrak or Essex Outlets)
 2. expanded route (e.g. adding Smugs, Tilley Drive, other UVM medical offices, Susie Wilson, Lang Farm, Best Buy, Richmond Park & Ride).
 - noted that direct service is worth a lot - if there are transfers, ridership drops
 - ask GMT to model demand on these routes
 - provide info about ride-shares/links/transfers on bus/van
 - if our route is shorter, other people outside Tri-Towns will want to use it
 - HOW – could be us (AltTransVan), or GMT running midday service
 - if AltTransVan – State can provide the van, but we would have other costs (e.g. driver, gas, maintenance)
 - we don't want to own/run bus company
 - BUT if we had van, then we could use it for more than just midday service (e.g. going to Richmond Park & Ride at peak times, thus opening up access to Waterbury/Montpelier)

- ***Mike/Kurt** to ask how much it would cost for GMT to just provide a midday service for us (we think ~\$3-5,000 per town. Hopefully first year could be a pilot project and less expensive) – this would be easiest solution
- if GMT provides service we would need to ask SB for more \$
- Milton has a midday service – why not us? We haven't asked for it yet

Next Steps

- ask GMT for midday service and steps to get it
- ask Regional Planning if they would be willing to do 1 yr study to tackle larger van question. Need to apply in fall, find out in April to tackle larger van question [if > 1 town involved, this could be free]
- ***Kurt/Mike** to approach SBs before end of year for \$ – they are already thinking about next year's budget

Other Business

- need to confirm that Cambridge and Jericho town websites point to Underhill for our minutes [***Sara**]
- delicious lasagna and salad, cookies and juice – thanks to those who brought food/drink!

Meeting Adjourned